

MORE OF CANTON

Foreign Settlement Fortified With Wall And Gates.

VISIT TO BUDDHIST TEMPLE

Public Execution Ground Exposed To View—Manufacture of Brocade.

(Special Correspondence.)

EDITOR P. C. A.—Each time we enter or leave the Foreign Settlement of Shamen, we pass through iron gates, opened for us by a policeman. In the Station House near by were displayed some pikes and blunderbusses. There are only about 150 resident foreigners, and it would be no difficult matter for an organized band of marauders to loot the settlement. Indeed, the history of the incoming and settling of foreigners in China is a history of fire and bloodshed.

We started out early this morning to take in the sights of the city. We had planned to remain till Monday morning, and then take the boat to Macao. But the boat is in the dry dock, and we had to return to Hong Kong by the afternoon boat today. But the night boats are as well adapted to the service as the day boats, fitted with ample rooms, electric lights and all the modern conveniences.

We had visited a Buddhist temple with much gilded carving, but with little else to give evidence of the hold Buddhist worship has on the masses of the people. The Chinaman economizes time and effort in attending to his religious duties, has his joss sticks before a dirty little image on the corner of the street. In the Temple of the Five Hundred Disciples, however, there is displayed a sight that attracts every tourist. At the head of the 500 disciples of Buddha, gilt wooden images begrimed with the dust of ages, stands the image of some foreigner, whom the guide introduced to us as "Marco Polo," the celebrated traveller from Europe in the Middle Ages. There is a temple also that bears his name in one of the suburbs of the city. A wooden effigy of a Chinese Emperor occupies a conspicuous place; and a many towered pagoda of white marble in miniature.

We were taken to the highest rampart on the Wall, whence we had a wonderful view of the city, enclosed within the six miles of walls. It seemed only one vast conglomeration of sheds with only two or three green trees above the square miles of roofing. On the walls were bastions, pierced for artillery service. We found there weather beaten cast iron cannon, of about the size of those on Puncbowell, and about as serviceable. Just outside of the walls were several tombs in Chinese style, of horse shoe shape, with a bench running around the inner circle, all cemented. We visited the so-called "City of the Dead," where rich people hire a room to lay away their friends, till a propitious day is found for interment. Mistakes are sometimes made as we saw in one room a coffin that had been buried twelve years and then exhumed, because its burial had brought bad luck in many successive deaths in the family. Wealth will show its "superfluity of naughtiness," or extravagance of haughtiness, even in death. We saw the coffin of the second wife of the Viceroy, which has cost \$12,000. It has been lacquered and lacquered, till the varnish is about three inches thick. The drip of the lacquer on the bench that upheld the coffin confirmed a part of the guide's account. The coffins are cylindrical, with three bulging heads. Before the curtains that hid the coffin of a young wife and mother, we saw the effigies of the servants, in the gayest robes of office, waiting upon her, as in life, with tobacco, tea, flowers, and so on.

The Examination Hall with its thousand cells was not open. In these close rooms thousands of students have been immured for two days, or till they prepare their papers to pass as of the first, second, or third degree; and in proportion to their literary skill and ability, secure some government appointment. Six or seven died as usual under the ordeal this year. The Hong Kong police arrested people for hawking about the streets the names of the successful candidates. It seems that one firm of Chinese gambling is to give a prize of \$1500 to the person whose list contains the most names of successful contestants. All gambling is strictly forbidden by Chinese law; but it is said that the most notorious gambling houses are close to the houses of magistrates.

We were taken to the Execution Ground. I had expected to see some enclosure where some proprietaries would be observed on so significant an occasion. Instead, we were led along side of some pottery rubbish, till of a sudden our guide stopped, and said, "This is the spot." A long bamboo pole with a shorter one across it near the top, leaned against the wall. Near its foot was a spot reddened with blood, where the day before a woman had been beheaded for poisoning some person. A man standing near picked up the woman's head and showed it to us. It is to be sent to the country town from which she came, as a warn-

ing to evil doers. The guide told us that, before she was beheaded, 24 pieces of flesh were cut off her living body.

We gladly left such a scene of horror to look in upon the weaving of silk brocade. It is impossible to conceive that such iridescent, golden, purple sheen could be manufactured in such a place with such rude machinery by such workmen. There were four looms in the dark den with its earthen floor. The looms were of the rudest possible construction. While a man washed the shuttles, changing them from one color to another with deft celerity, a boy on top of the loom pulled up a tangled mass of twine which mingled warp and wool in the marvelous product of artistic beauty and loveliness. At another loom a woman, with a full array of shuttles before her, was taking up one after another to pop through three threads only at a time. There was no pattern for these operators to follow, but the finished web showed what fine work, skill can do with the rudest implements.

The excessive value which the Chinese put upon jade as a personal ornament is like the superstitious medicinal value they attribute to ginseng. Again, the rudeness of the machinery with which small boys were cutting and polishing rings, bracelets, ear-rings, of this hard green stone, was a marvelous triumph of human ingenuity. And still another marvel was the way in which other small boys put the feathers of the king fisher upon silver filigree work. Ivory cutting with a fret saw, or with the smallest of chisels was another marvel of misplaced industry. Who but a Chinaman would pay \$350 for an elephant's tusk, or rhinoceros' horn, or a small part of one covered with carvings of birds and dragons and horsemen and warriors? And the embroidery, done entirely by the eye, while the hand passed the needleful of silk through till there stood forth some bird of gayest plumage, the sheen of the silk rivaling the feather in lustre and softness, was still another marvel of Chinese skill.

Yet again, as on the previous day, the most marvelous sight of all was the stream of humanity, continually flowing along in interchanging currents. What a variety of burdens they carried! What a variety and abundance of food tempted them! Pigs' heads, and feet, and sides, baked and raw, chopped and sawed and cut; duck ready for the spit, or brown and crisp from roasting in the oven; a goat's head with its short horns blackened, to bring them out in startling contrast with the whiteness of the skin; half of a dog, the whole carcass of a bat, with the claws on its feet; vegetables of numberless kinds; fruits in endless variety, peeled, sliced, quartered, or in its own natural covering; it seemed as if the great business of life was to buy or sell something to eat.

We compressed into one morning sights, and scenes that made it seem as if it were months since we set foot on Chinese soil, and yet it has been only three days. We engaged Susan and her boat to take us to visit Dr. Kerr's Hospital. In the forty years of his missionary labors he has built up a large establishment with manifold variety of Christian work. He had just returned from Peking, to which city he had been summoned to perform some surgical operation on some United States official; for his experience in doing what he has done for the sick and suffering Chinese has given him skill and renown throughout all China.

Susan's boat took us back to the Hong Kong steamer in time to make arrangements for our departure. We edged our way through hundreds of boats, the only home that 300,000 of the population of Canton ever know. The slipper boats are usually managed by a woman, who works at the scull with her baby on the floor tied by a rope around the waist, while the bamboo basket of chickens swings overhead, and the family meal of chopped vegetables and fish lies in readiness for meal time.

Canton, October 23, 1897.

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Subscribed	2,000,000	0	0
Paid up Capital	687,500	0	0
2- Fire Funds	2,000,550	12	0
3- Life and Annuity Funds	9,066,182	2	8
	£12,654,132	14	8
Revenue Fire Branch	1,577,028	17	9
Revenue Life and Annuity	1,404,107	9	11
Branches	£2,981,136	7	8

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